Course Title:	Modern World History (Honors)
Grade(s):	9

Course Description
In this rapidly changing world, it is imperative that the 21st century learner be well-versed in the foundations of the contemporary global setting. Suffield students will have a well-rounded understanding of how the events of the 20th century have provided the background of the 21st century world. Throughout the course of the academic year, students will explore the causes and ramifications of Industrialization, Global Imperialism, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and Modern Global Issues. The course will be structured in a fashion to allow students to engage with and develop connections between the past and the contemporary world as well as strengthen their global perspective as they attempt to understand their place in this rapidly changing planet. **Prerequisite:** Suggested grade of B or higher from previous placement, teacher recommendation The honors level of this course, while studying the same concepts and skills as the academic class, challenges students to work at a deeper level and at a faster pace.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
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Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Industrialization and Progress	In this opening unit, students explore the forces that reshaped global societies during the Industrial Revolution. Through case studies in the U.S., China, and Europe, students examine shifting living and working conditions, new economic ideologies, evolving standards of living, and the environmental impact of industrial growth. Students learn to investigate how technological innovation, access to resources, and global inequalities fueled industrial expansion.	Quarter 1 (8 Weeks)

	Students analyze multiple perspectives on economic systems and the idea of “progress.” They evaluate primary and secondary sources to understand how industrialization improved life for some while creating new forms of exploitation for others. Throughout the unit, students practice inquiry-based reading, annotation, source corroboration, and evidence-based writing.	
Unit 2: Global Imperialism	In this unit, students investigate the motivations, methods, and consequences of imperialism across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Students analyze how competition for various natural resources drove expansion for imperial powers. They study justifications for empire building and evaluate how colonized peoples resisted imperial control. Using case studies such as the Scramble for Africa, the Sepoy Rebellion, the Boxer Rebellion, and Japanese imperialism, students examine the global scale of imperial rivalries and their impacts on indigenous communities. Students evaluate claims, detect bias, and analyze how perspective influences historical narratives.	First Half of Quarter 2 (4 weeks)
Unit 3: Global Conflict and Decolonization	This unit traces the major global conflicts of the 20th century and their lasting influence on world politics, ideology, and independence movements. Students begin with the causes and consequences of World War I, analyze the failures of the Treaty of Versailles, and track the rise of totalitarian leaders across Europe and Asia. They examine how the competing ideologies of communism, fascism, and nationalism shaped global tensions and contributed to World War II. Students also study the Holocaust with care and sensitivity, focusing on the systems, propaganda, and discriminatory policies that enabled mass persecution. The emphasis remains on understanding how ideology, misinformation, and authoritarian control shape human behavior. After World War II, students investigate global tensions, proxy wars, and resistance movements influenced by Cold War rivalries, evaluating how global power structures shifted throughout the century.	Second Half of Quarter 2 and all of Quarter 3 (12 weeks)
Unit 4: Globalization and Global Governance	In the final unit, students analyze the interconnected world of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through investigations of technological advancements, students evaluate how new technologies transformed daily life, communication,	Quarter 4 (8 weeks)

	and global relationships. Students analyze various responses to the forces of globalism, and form an informed perspective on the impacts that globalization has on the world. Topics vary from year to year but may include the following themes: Developed vs developing world, globalization and trade, social and environmental issues, advances in science and technology. Students study major public health events exploring how societies respond to crises. The unit also examines climate change, migration, and global activism, focusing on how individuals and groups advocate for political, economic, and environmental change.	